

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



W.P.A.
1933

STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by

Office of Barberry Eradication

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Volume II

January 25, 1931

Number 1

Not for publication without permission

Bureau of Plant Industry
U. S. Department of Agriculture

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Educational Activity a Vital Part of Barberry Eradication Campaign	1
Barberry Eradication, Its Place in Our Public Schools	6
The Study of Black Stem Rust and Common Barberry in the Grades	8
Agricultural Short Courses	9
Educational Work with High Schools in Indiana	11
B. P. I. Memo	13
Ohio	14
Indiana	15
Illinois	16
District No. 1	17
District No. 2	18
Personnel Notes	18

STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by

Office of Barberry Eradication

Volume II

January 25, 1931

Number 1

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY A VITAL PART OF THE
BARBERRY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

By

Donald G. Fletcher, Executive Secretary,
Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust

The eradication of common barberries in the thirteen North-Central States is not the sole object of this campaign, but merely a means toward the end which we wish to reach; namely, the control of black stem rust which attacks our small grain crops.

I believe all will agree that at present the field survey and destruction of bushes is the most important phase of this work. The area now free from the present crop of barberries must constantly be extended. The first hurried surveys destroyed millions of centers of rust infection. Several thousand of these barberry locations contained large bushes which produced thousands of berries each year. We have learned how birds and animals scatter the seeds, with the resultant springing up of so-called "escaped" common barberry bushes.

In 1918, it was commonly believed that a few years would see an end to all these outlaw bushes. This idea persisted even in 1922 and 1923, when help was received from interested business groups represented by the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust, and the annual Federal appropriation was raised to \$350,000.

A stirring, vigorous publicity campaign was started, the idea being to arouse the people to their patriotic duty and keep the interest at fever heat while the remaining bushes were hurriedly destroyed. By 1925 those in charge found the task was not so simple as it first appeared, and we now know that the work must be carried on for a period of years.

Realizing this, we know that the public will not stand being bombarded year after year with the same ammunition prepared in the same way, and respond as they did when the project was new. The work should be considered on a long time, educational basis, and the publicity should be handled accordingly.

There is no quicker and surer way of killing the average individual's interest in a subject than to flood his newspapers and mails with scareheads and articles about it, especially when a majority of the items have very little, if any, news value. The words "common barberry" must be kept before the public, but the major attacks should be few and then only when something happens that really warrants the action.

For some time it has been the contention of many persons interested in this campaign that the educational activity should originate in the State or National offices. Field men are hired primarily to find and destroy barberry bushes, and the best of them can not be expected to carry on the field news service as it should be done. The mature judgment and experience of the Leader is needed to originate and plan this phase of the work. It can be delegated only to specially trained men who have previously demonstrated their ability along this line.

Extension Editors Assist

The best news service friends the barberry eradication leaders can have are the extension service editors of the State Experiment Stations. Extension editors are giving us valuable assistance through their wide acquaintance with the State and its people. Their courtesy in extending to us the use of their clip sheets is greatly appreciated, and the privilege should be safeguarded by being careful not to wear out the welcome sign on the door mat.

Choosing Educational Projects

When considering the educational phase of our campaign, there are so many ways in which a Leader of Barberry Eradication can profitably spend his time that one often becomes bewildered. One of the finest opportunities to get over a case of "ego" on our ability to promote a good educational job is to sit in at a round-table discussion of this subject when the Leaders meet. In all, ten or fifteen educational projects will be recommended as the most effective. When we stop to think what we did in our own particular State, their collective statements make us wonder if we did anything.

Each of us can not in any one year undertake to carry on all of the projects which have been highly successful in other States. Neither should anyone lose his perspective to the extent that year after year he pushes his own pet project to the exclusion of all others. There is also the danger of spreading one's interests and strength over too great a number of projects with the result that none is done to the best of his ability.

It seems that each year we are coming to have a more sane and tolerant attitude toward this whole question of putting first things first in our educational work. Over a period of years there are several major educational projects that should be carried on in every State - not all in one year but each as the economic, political and other influencing conditions may warrant.

The Calendar of Work

One of the best ways in which to stabilize and unify this activity which has come to be so important a part of our campaign is to prepare a sort of elastic educational calendar. As you doubtless remember, a definite request was made for such a work sheet at the 1930 Conference in Minneapolis. The schedule prepared will be considered very carefully with the survey proposals made at the 1931 Conference. For your convenience in preparing such a calendar, a list of activities which should merit some consideration is included here. The list is not complete nor is it arranged in any order of importance.

- I. Educational Activities through organizations other than schools.
 - a. Personal visits with the leaders of agricultural thought and activity through the state.
 - b. Talks and demonstrations with or without illustrations, in the form of slides, film strips, motion pictures, or displays.
 - c. Direct mail contacts. Send out timely and appropriate letters and literature.

(The following list and classification of organizations was taken from Mr. Bulger's paper "Educational Activities Through Organizations Other than Schools" given at the 1929 Conference meeting in Bozeman, Montana. Mr. Bulger states that it is an attempt to mention those organizations common to most States, that are interested in the betterment of agriculture.

Luncheon

1. Kiwanis
2. Rotary
3. Lions

Community

1. Chambers of Commerce
2. Izaak Walton leagues
3. American Legion chapters
4. Y.M.C.A.

Scientific

1. Crop Improvement associations
2. State seed councils
3. Live Stock Improvement associations
4. Marketing organizations
5. Producers' associations

Business

1. Millers' associations
2. Seed Growers and Dealers
3. Grain Commission firms
4. Farmers' Elevator associations
5. Line Elevator companies
6. Machinery companies
7. Retail dealers
8. Bankers' associations
9. Threshermen's associations
10. Pharmaceutical associations
11. Lumberman's organizations
12. Nursery associations
13. Real Estate dealers
14. Building and Loan associations

Professional

1. Medical associations
2. Dental associations
3. Bar associations
4. Press and Editorial associations

Women's Organizations

- a. Study clubs
- b. Civic clubs
- c. Extension homemakers' clubs
- d. Business and Professional clubs
- e. Federated clubs

Mixed Organizations

- a. Agricultural
 1. Chambers of Agriculture
 2. Farm Bureaus
 3. Farmers' Union
 4. Grange chapters
 5. Extension Service clubs
- b. Educational
 1. Educational associations
 2. Parent Teacher associations
 3. Alumni associations
 4. Associations of College Professors
 5. Associations for the Advancement of Science
 6. Garden clubs
 7. Nature Study clubs
 8. Experimental associations
 9. Extension Workers' organizations
 10. Agricultural societies at colleges
 11. Forums
 12. State Horticultural societies

Juvenile
Organizations

a. Educational

1. 4-H clubs
2. Audubon societies
3. Young Citizens' leagues

b. Recreational

1. Boy Scouts
2. Girl Scouts
3. Campfire Girls
4. Girl Reserves

II. Educational Activities Through Schools

- a. Personal visits to leaders in educational activities, throughout the state.
- b. Talks and demonstrations with or without illustrations, in the form of slides, film strips, motion pictures, or displays.
- c. Direct mail contacts. Send out timely and appropriate letters and literature.

(The following is a list of educational groups through which it has been found highly profitable to work.)

1. State Educational Departments
2. Universities
 - a. State
 - b. Private
3. Colleges
 - a. Normal Teacher Training
 - b. State
 - c. Private
 - d. Parochial
4. High Schools (Normal training departments of high schools provide a large percentage of the teachers of rural schools.)
 - a. Public
 - b. Private
 - c. Parochial
5. Grade Schools
 - a. Rural (Public and private)
 - b. City (- " " ")
 - c. Parochial

6.

III. Newspaper, Magazine and Farm Journal Articles.

- a. Local weeklies
- b. Dailies

IV. Radio Broadcasts

V. Demonstrations

- a. Fairs
 - 1. Sectional
 - 2. State
 - 3. County
- b. Window displays
- c. Displays at meetings of state organizations
- d. Field demonstrations
 - 1. Roadside display of growing barberry
 - 2. Rust spread demonstration
- e. Street demonstrations

VI. Preparation of a new state bulletin on barberry eradication.

BARBERRY ERADICATION, ITS PLACE IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By

**E. C. Giffen, State Superintendent of Public
Instruction, South Dakota.**

That so prosy a subject as Barberry Eradication can be made interesting and profitable to grade children has been demonstrated in South Dakota. In the school year, 1927-28, the pupils of grades seven and eight who are members of the Young Citizens League, and that means practically all of them, engaged in this study. Through R. O. Bulger, Leader of Barberry Eradication in this State, in cooperation with the Conference for Prevention of Grain Rust, Minneapolis, Minn., valuable material was compiled and distributed to South Dakota pupils and a very intensive study of the subject begun. The study of this subject culminated in a contest, sponsored by the Young Citizens League of South Dakota in cooperation with Mr. Bulger and the Conference for Prevention of Grain Rust. Great interest in the prevention of rust was awakened and the contest proved that grade pupils can attack and study with profit a question of this seriousness.

The Speaking Contest

In practically every school in South Dakota, valuable study was made of the rust cycle. Discussion occurred in the homes of these pupils and a united attack on the barberry was the result. District speaking contests were planned. Winners from the district contest met in county contests. Regions of counties were platted and county winners met to determine region winners. Finally, in connection with our State Young Citizens League Convention, which met in the House of Representatives of our State Capitol, the nine region winners gave their addresses and a State winner was selected.

This first contest proved so valuable and interesting that the speaking contest has become an annual affair. Last year pupils attacked the subject, "Conservation of Natural Resources Including Wood, Waters, and Wild Life in South Dakota" and this year they are working on the subject, "My County". People in every county in the State are looking forward to the State contest which will be held May 1st, 1931.

A Place in Four High School Subjects

Barberry Eradication finds a place in at least four subjects in high school, namely, agriculture, general science, biology or botany, and economics.

In general science it may be brought in with a unit on man's control of plant life. The aim in this case would be to impress the importance of the unnoticed plants and the microscopic section of the plant kingdom. Stem rust in this case is an exceptionally valuable example. The availability of illustrative material from State and Federal agencies on this subject should appeal to teachers of general science.

In biology or botany, the study of the eradication of black stem rust would be approached through structural studies or in connection with life cycles. The primary aim in this case is to teach relationships of various classes of plants to each other. Activities in these courses might well include microscopic work, drawings, and collection of specimens in the community. Much more time would be devoted to the subject in botany or biology than in general science.

In the field of economics the study of black stem rust might be approached in a unit on control measures of production showing how our governments have taken the responsibility to control certain adverse factors that effect not only quantity, but probably more important, the quality of production.

Through the activities of charts, maps, reports, etc., the importance of these control measures would be brought out.

Approach Agricultural Courses from Farmers' Standpoint

In agriculture courses the approach would be from the farmers' standpoint. The unit on "How to Control Plant Diseases" would naturally include lessons on black stem rust. The aim in this unit would be to give practical information as to individual and group responsibility in eradication. Activities would include home surveys, identification of small grain diseases, identification of various stages of the life cycle of the stem rust, and testing of samples of rusted grain. In fact in the agriculture work all phases may be considered.

THE STUDY OF BLACK STEM RUST AND COMMON BARBERRY IN THE GRADES

By

Catherine Conoboy, Supervisor of Intermediate Grades
State Teachers College, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The modern conception of education is that it should consist of activities which are pupil-purposed, pupil-planned, and pupil-executed. As a result of careful guidance by the teacher, the children while living through these activities will acquire useful information, good habits of work, high ideals, desirable attitudes, and enlarged interests concerning the world in which they live. Keeping this in mind we took up the study of the common barberry and black stem rust as the child's problem rather than an exercise which had been selected and planned by the teacher. This work was an outgrowth of a social science unit on a study of the Northern States between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. It was found that the chief crop raised in these States was wheat. In discussing this the fact was brought out that some years the crop was much smaller than other years. The reasons for this were discussed. Such causes as lack of rain, wind storms, hail, early frosts, diseases, and insects were talked about. It was found that black stem rust was the most destructive disease of small grains in this section. Since the common barberry is largely responsible for the spread of black stem rust of small grains, the class decided to find out what they could about the plant. The following facts were decided upon to be found and discussed: What kind of a plant it is; how it came to the United States; where it grows; how the plant spreads rust; what time of the year it does the most damage; of what use it is; and how farmers get rid of it.

During the language period the children wrote to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D.C., for information about the common barberry. Other material was collected from our school library, the county library and from pamphlets sent us from our State Department.

When all this material was gathered together and read, talks were given by members of the class on the topics previously agreed upon. At the conclusion of the unit the class decided to have a program to which they invited the students from the rural department of the college, their parents, and the county agent. For this program the class organized their material in connected talks. Invitations for this program were written during the language period. Pictures were made in the art class showing the common and Japanese barberry; the different stages of black stem rust; and the kernels of wheat which had not been affected by rust and of those that had. These pictures were explained and referred to as the talks were given.

Thus, one sees the many opportunities which this project offered the teacher to give these children training in purposing, planning and executing their work.

Note: Miss Conoboy won first prize in the lesson plan contest carried on during 1929 in the barberry eradication area. As indicated in her article, the plan was worked out and tested in the class room before being submitted in the contest. Miss Conoboy's plan forms the basis of the new lesson plan now being prepared. In a short time, preliminary copies of the plan will be sent to all the leaders with the request that supervisors of education (6th to 8th grades) in their States be asked for suggestions whereby the plan can be improved.

- - - - -

AGRICULTURAL SHORT COURSES

By

R. O. Bulger, Leader of Barberry Eradication,
District No. 2.

During the past two winters, some of the educational activities of the Barberry Eradication Campaign in South Dakota have been promoted in connection with agricultural short courses. These short courses are sponsored by the Extension Service of South Dakota State College in cooperation with the various agricultural communities that desire to hold the meetings. In some instances only one-day courses are held, but in a majority of the cases the meetings last for two days.

Community Arranges Course through Extension Service

Each community that desires these meetings writes to the Extension Service and requests some help from specialists in various lines. The organization is largely left to a local chairman who arranges a program from topics suggested by the Extension Service and who also makes the other arrangements. In most localities, corn, grain, poultry, and women's exhibits are shown in connection with the instructional meetings.

The specialists who take part in these meetings are lined up on a definite schedule where the travel between places is not too great, and where meetings are held practically every afternoon and evening. Instructional talks are given on various agricultural subjects and discussions are promoted. In most cases motion pictures are shown and some local talent is placed on the program.

During the winters of 1929 and 1930 the Leader in South Dakota took part in 48 meetings in 23 different localities. He gave a talk in the afternoon and another in the evening. In addition, the motion picture film "Rust" was shown. In some cases a portable demonstration on the common barberry and stem rust was shown in connection with the local exhibits.

The topics discussed by the Leader were (1) "Rusts and Smuts", and (2) "The Weather and Plant Diseases" for one-day meetings; and (1) "Rusts", (2) "Smuts", (3) "The Weather and Plant Diseases", and (4) "The Barberry Eradication Campaign" for two-day meetings. In addition the writer aided by doing some judging of corn and small grain exhibits, and by running the motion picture machine.

Smuts were discussed in addition to rusts in order to help the Extension Service and also because smut and rust are often confused. To compensate, the film "Rust" was shown at a great many meetings where the writer was not present.

Costs and Results Obtained

The cost of holding 30 meetings in 15 different localities during 1929 was \$14.61 per meeting or about \$.09 per person. In 1930 the cost of holding 18 meetings in eight different localities was \$7.19 per meeting or \$.04 per person. The difference in cost in the two years is largely due to the weather during 1929. This was an extremely cold winter with lots of snow. These conditions made traveling difficult, which not only increased the cost, but also cut down attendance, and cancelled some meetings. The cost during 1930 was lower for these meetings than for any other type of educational project carried on in this State.

A total of 7,569 people attended these meetings in the two years. In addition the film was shown to 7,967 people in meetings where the Leader was not present.

Value of This Work

The writer is enthusiastic about this type of work because it afforded an opportunity to bring the educational program to the adult population and more especially directly to the farmers. Much of the educational activities in this State have been centered entirely in schools and educational institutions. While these activities have merit, yet it is felt that a program of educational work should include activities with both adult and juvenile groups.

Through the talks that were given and the discussions that followed, many erroneous ideas in the minds of the public concerning barberry work were corrected. After almost every meeting farmers and business men told the Leader that they now more fully understood the work and they expressed their faith in its future.

The cost per meeting and per individual reached, is relatively low providing good crowds are present and the weather does not increase the cost of travel. Some method is needed in the future to aid in determining the effectiveness of this type of work in selling the people on the merits of the campaign.

An invitation was again extended to take part in this work during January, February, and part of March, 1931. However, other previous arrangements will prohibit lining up on this schedule. It is hoped that the work may be continued in 1932.

EDUCATIONAL WORK WITH HIGH SCHOOLS IN INDIANA

By

Wayne E. Leer, Leader of Barberry Eradication in Indiana.

In 1928, it was decided to have a special educational assistant work in the schools of the State. The high school was selected as the school unit in which this work could best be concentrated, the reasons being: (1) The high percentage of children attending high schools. (2) The maturity of high school students. (3) The possibility of being able to reach every high school in the state once every four or five years.

Mr. I. L. McCoy, who has been doing this work, first contacts with the county superintendent of schools in order to secure his approval and cooperation. Valuable information relative to the school program, lighting, room arrangement, equipment, etc., is secured during this visit. Wherever possible, the lecture is given during the first visit to the school, however, it is frequently necessary to make a return trip in order to fit the lecture into

the school program. A lantern slide lecture is given, which varies in length from 30 to 45 minutes. The shorter lecture is preferred, however, school officials want all the allotted time used. The movie films have been used in the larger high schools to a very good advantage.

In Indiana there are 86 senior high schools, 28 junior high schools, and 754 combined grade and high schools. The senior and junior high schools are located, for the most part, in the larger cities. In most rural high schools, the seventh and eighth grades occupy the same assembly as the high school students, and in these schools it is almost always possible to reach the students in the grades from seven to twelve inclusive. In a large number of the consolidated schools, it has been possible to reach the entire student body.

During 1929 and 1930, 155 high schools were visited and barberry eradication discussed before 15,968 school children. Also, the teachers and many interested people who visited the schools were reached at the same time.

Although the newspapers have not been used to any great extent in the past, it is planned to use newspaper stories in each county worked in the future. It is also planned to have the county superintendent of schools send letters to the high school principals, advising that Mr. McCoy will be in the school on a certain date to give a lantern slide lecture on barberry eradication. Probably the greatest need in the program at this time is a suitable piece of follow-up publicity.

-----*

Bureau of Plant Industry Memorandum 557

January 5, 1931.

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF OFFICES

Gentlemen:

Memorandum No. 607, Office of the Secretary, carries an amendment to the Administrative Regulations of the Department covering authority to grant leave. The amendment to present regulations is contained in the following sentence, which is the first sentence of the second paragraph of the memorandum:

"An employee may not be granted annual or sick leave at the beginning of the leave year immediately following an absence in a nonpay status in the preceding year unless and until there has been a return to duty."

A number of questions have been asked relative to the correct interpretation of this sentence. An employee absent on leave without pay at the end of a calendar year may not be granted sick or annual leave in the succeeding calendar year unless and until the employee reports back to work. When the employee is again at work, either annual or sick leave may be approved retroactively covering the period of absence in the new calendar year, and pay voucher put in course of settlement.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Wm. A. Taylor

Chief of Bureau.

FIELD NOTES

Ohio - 8 East Broad Street, Columbus - Harry Atwood

Thursday, December 4, was a big day in the life of Robert Warner. Robert is fourteen years old and attends the Johnsville High School.

Recently he reported common barberries growing near his home. On Thursday, December 4, the writer made a visit to the Johnsville School and presented to Robert a bronze medal on behalf of the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust. A great deal of interest has been aroused in this rural community because of the finding of common barberries and the winning of the medal by Robert. Several children in the school are now working for a medal like the one Robert is wearing.

In the afternoon the Superintendent excused Robert from school in order that he might accompany the Leader to the barberry location. We drove a distance of four miles to Robert's home. After Robert had shouldered the family shot gun and put a few shells in his pocket we walked through the fields for a distance of half a mile to the barberry location. Here we found the foundation and cellar of a house which had once been the home of one of the early settlers of Morrow County. A few feet away was a large common barberry bush laden with clusters of red berries. This was no doubt the original planting. Surrounding the parent bush were ten more large common barberry bushes. Further scouting in the immediate vicinity revealed more barberry bushes.

Yes, Robert shot at three rabbits while on our trip through the fields.

It is hoped that several more barberry locations may be found and medals awarded as a result of our educational program through the schools this winter.

Our educational and publicity activities for the winter are well under way.

Many of the County Agricultural Agents, County Superintendents of Schools, and botany departments of the different colleges of Ohio have recently received a visit from the Leader of Barberry Eradication.

A plan is being worked out with the Extension Agents whereby the boys and girls clubs will learn about the barberry eradication campaign through their club leader. The possibility of the boys and girls receiving medals and becoming members of the National Rust Busters Club, by finding new locations of common barberry bushes and reporting them to the Barberry Office, is an added incentive.

The County Superintendent of Schools in many of the counties is requesting that the packets of material be sent to him and he will distribute them through his assistants to the teachers of the County. In other counties the superintendents are requesting that the material be sent to the teachers direct. In these counties the teachers will be told of the importance of the material by letter, through the County News Bulletin, or at county teachers' meetings.

The botany, biology and agricultural departments of the Colleges and Universities of the State are pleased to receive the educational material. Some of the departments are requesting additional material for class room and laboratory use.

The 200 vocational agriculture departments of Ohio have recently been sent the packets of educational material and in addition a lesson plan suitable for class room instruction. They also were sent a form letter relative to films, lantern slides, and other material available for use in teaching the subject "Prevention of Black Stem Rust".

The Leader attended the National Meeting of the Phytopathological Society held in Cleveland, December 30 to January 1.

Indiana - Agricultural Experiment Station, Lafayette - Wayne E. Leer

The office was visited during December by Mr. Calhoun. Fiscal matters were discussed and many perplexing questions were answered. The visit was both timely and worthwhile.

The second of the series of four letters to the township Farm Bureau presidents is being sent out at this time. In this letter the Farm Bureau organizations are being urged to use either the film or lantern slides on Barberry Eradication at one of their meetings during the winter.

Barberry Eradication has been given an hour on the Annual Agricultural Conference which is to be held at Purdue University January 12 to 16. It is planned to briefly discuss the campaign, then follow with the film, "Rust".

Field activities were discontinued November 28. During the year, 1,885 bushes were found on 139 properties. Of this number, 1,630 bushes were escaped or wild bushes and were found on 44 properties. About 50 per cent of Decatur County and 90 per cent of Bartholomew County were second surveyed during the year. Work was done in areas of escaped bushes in Owen, Monroe, Harrison, Dearborn, Wayne, and Marion counties. Leads were investigated and bushes removed in many other parts of the State during the year.

During the fall literature file boxes have been delivered to the county superintendents of schools in about 50 counties in the northern part of the State. Since the county superintendent of schools visits the schools in his county several times during the year, he is very glad to place one of these boxes in every school in his county. This method of distribution gives the Leader an opportunity to discuss the barberry eradication campaign with the county superintendent of schools. It is planned to send letters to the teachers early in the spring in order to be sure that every school gets one of the literature file boxes.

The work in the high schools is being conducted on about the same basis as last year. Mr. McCoy is giving lectures before the science and agricultural classes and the school assemblies. In many schools two talks are given, while in some schools it is possible to talk only to the school assembly. The movie films are being shown to the larger school assemblies instead of the slides. Mr. McCoy has also used the films in talks at several farm bureau night meetings during the fall.

Illinois - Post Office Building, Urbana - Robert W. Dills

All field activities were suspended the last week of November due to the snow storm and freezing temperature which came at that time. Four federal men, one state man, and one temporary man were working in Lake Forest. All of the rural sections of Lake County are now completed on second survey.

Advantage was taken of the unusually fine fall weather to complete some badly wooded areas in Lake County. Several wild areas in northern Illinois were eradicated and practically all of the "leads" which had come to the office as a result of former publicity were disposed of.

A total of 14,214 barberry bushes and 2,854 seedlings were destroyed in 32 counties in 1930. More than 12 counties were covered by first survey and the equivalent of one county by second survey. Two counties were resurveyed.

District No. 1 - State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak. - George C. Mayoue.

Montana - Second survey of Fergus County was completed the first week of November. Following the completion of this assignment, the three agents, with the assistance of the District Leader, began educational work in the schools of Dawson County. With favorable weather, all of the school children of that county from the first to the eighth grades will have become members of the National Rust Busters' Club by the end of the first week in December. In addition to organizing the grade students into the N.R.B. Club, the agents gave illustrative talks to all of the high school students in the county. The county superintendent, Mrs. Anna M. Schultz, is particularly interested in this kind of work and has given most hearty cooperation. The agents found the students and teachers very much pleased to become members of the Rust Busters' Club. Besides presenting each student of a school with an R.B.C. button, Plate IV, and the plate regarding the N.R.B.C. bronze medal, the teacher was furnished with the attractive literature file, specimens, posters, and literature, unless the school had previously been supplied with these items. Editors, business men, farmers, and others also manifested considerable interest in this activity.

The District Leader spent the week of November 2 in Montana. While there he conferred with Mr. H. E. Morris and others at the State College, met with county agents, superintendents of schools, teachers, students, editors, business men, and others, and worked with the agents.

North Dakota - By December 6 all of the grade students of Stutsman County will have become members of the National Rust Busters' Club through the work carried on by three agents. Miss Mary E. Cusator, county superintendent, editors, business men, farmers and others have cooperated excellently. The North Dakota Associated Press, as well as daily and weekly papers of Stutsman County have given very good front page publicity to this activity, which, according to the county agent, Mr. Harper Drush, a former barberry scout of 1922-23, and the county superintendent, has been one of the most popular projects ever carried on in that county. The agents left with the students and teachers, as in Montana, N.R.B.C. buttons, plates, specimens, literature, posters, and the literature file. The literature file had not been presented previously to any of the schools in Stutsman County. Consequently it was quite effective to give it to the teacher at the same time as the students were being organized into the R.B.C.

The District Leader spent several days working in the schools with the agents, and particularly addressing high school students, as well as observing the talks to the grades by the agents.

District No. 2 - State College Station, Brookings, S. Dak. -

R. O. Bulger

Plans are underway to include stem rust and barberry material in the new course of study which is being prepared in South Dakota. The entire curriculum is being revised from the grade schools to high schools. An effort has been made to include our material in the following branches, (1) elementary science, (2) general science, (3) biology, and (4) agriculture. The committees on these subjects and the State Department of Public Instruction have responded favorably to this idea.

Requests are being received daily from teachers who desire more material to fill in the literature filing cases which were handed out earlier in the season through the cooperation of the county superintendents.

Mr. Yount in Nebraska has been giving illustrated talks and has been instructing at a number of high schools during January. He reports that the work is being favorable received.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Mr. W. L. Popham was recently appointed to fill the position of General Field Supervisor which was left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Donald G. Fletcher last fall. Mr. Popham, who began work with the Department in 1922, has had wide experience in the barberry eradication program and it is felt that the Office is fortunate to secure his services in this capacity. For the present he will continue to maintain his office at 300 Lewis Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Donald G. Fletcher, Executive Secretary for the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust at Minneapolis has recently been appointed collaborator without pay.

Mr. Vern O. Taylor began work as Agent, Acting in Charge of Barberry Eradication in Wisconsin on January 15. Mr. Taylor succeeds Dr. Ralph M. Caldwell who resigned in the fall to take up research work for the Office of Cereal Crops and Diseases at Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. Ralph U. Cotter was in Washington during the period November 21 to December 8 for the purpose of attending conferences related to the development of the susceptibility studies program and other research work. Plans are being made for increased activity on the susceptibility studies during 1931.

Mr. F. C. Meier returned to Washington January 19 after a brief trip to Michigan and Indiana.

In Michigan plans for the coming season were discussed with Mr. Powers, officials of the State Department of Agriculture, and members of the extension service and experiment station staff, Michigan State College of Agriculture.

The Indiana program was discussed briefly with Dean J.H. Skinner and other officials at the experiment station and extension service. High schools in Denton County were visited in connection with Mr. McCoy's regular work and Mr. Meier reports a keen interest on the part of school officials and pupils in the illustrated lectures dealing with barberry eradication which are mentioned earlier in this number.

Dr. Leonard W. Melander was in Washington during the period December 1 to December 29 for the purpose of discussing plans for work in Minnesota and assisting with routine office activities.

Mr. E. A. Lungren was in Washington from December 12 to January 3 working with Doctor Melander on a film strip manuscript. Progress was made by joint conferences with office officials and Doctor Melander, Mr. Bulger, and Mr. Lungren with representatives of the National Smith-Hughes organization as a result of which a proposed Smith-Hughes school lesson plan is being developed.

Mr. R.O. Bulger is now in Washington where he is rendering valuable service in connection with the final handling of the digest reports and the annual progress report for the office.

Dean H. L. Dolley returned to South America, sailing November 16, to complete his studies of plant diseases which he began there last spring and which were cut short by the death of his wife in Buenos Aires, August 19. He made the following statement which was published in the Fargo Forum, "I feel that the wisest policy for me to pursue will be to return to South America and plunge into that series of studies, particularly the study of plant diseases and methods of control."

Carl W. Roberts, barberry agent in North Dakota 1929-30, who was on the North Dakota college students' live stock judging team which competed for a national placing at the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago November 29th, scored fifth place among all contestants, numbering 115. Chester W. Wolla, also a North Dakota barberry scout of 1929-30, was a member of this team representing North Dakota.

Herbert W. Herbison, barberry agent in North Dakota each season from 1922-25 inclusive, and for the past three years county agent of Benson County, North Dakota, was not only the coach of the 4-H Club team which took 5th place in the junior live stock judging contest in Chicago, November 28th, but also has the signal honor of being the coach of the 4-H Club member of this team who was placed

first and is proclaimed the International junior stock judging champion. This 15-year old boy, Harold Hofstrand, among other prizes won a \$500 scholarship offered by the Chicago Association of Commerce.

NOTES

Practically all copies of the Memoranda of Understanding between the Department and our cooperating agencies in the several States have been received, completed here, and photostat copies returned to the field offices. Reports have been received from many quarters indicating renewed enthusiasm towards the job of barberry eradication. We have been asked by the Bureau to call particular attention of our field representatives to B.P.I. Memo 448 covering "Government Expenditures under Memorandum of Understanding". Copies of this memorandum have been sent to all field offices. If you do not have one, please write us at once.

The Stem Rust and Barberry News was not issued during December.